Natural Resources Monitoring Plan - Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Restoration Plan Database:
Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Natural Resources Monitoring Plan - Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Brief description of plan:

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore includes 21 islands, ranging in size from 3 to 10,000 acres, and a 12 mile segment along the mainland shore; it is located in far northwestern Wisconsin. There are a number of clearings in the lakeshore which were created by the U.S. Lighthouse Service and activities relating to historic logging, farming, quarrying and fishing camps. These clearings contain much of the park's exotic vegetation. The lakeshore has a wide variety of important habitats including coastal sandstone and clay cliffs, sandscape lagoons and other wetland habitats, old-growth forests, and ravines. There are also sand spit or dunal features that provide nesting habitat for shorebirds. Shoals near the lakeshore's 0.5-mile lakeward boundary provide critical spawning areas for the commercially important lake trout and whitefish. Exotic fish and other aquatic animals, as well as toxic chemicals threaten the integrity of Lake Superior's ecosystem. The resource management plan has been written to provide guidance on how best to manage the natural and cultural resources of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Region the plan is located within:

Great Lakes Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

L014x

Area plan covers (in square miles):

square miles

Plan scale:

County

Plan’s lead organization(s):

Plan's Main Contact Information:

Julie Van Stappen
Supervisory Resource Management Specialist
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Route 1
Box 4
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814
715-779-3397
715-779-3049

On-line version of plan:

Date of original plan:

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals:

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Partners included in developing the plan:

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Other plan names:

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

Although Lake Superior is relatively clean compared to the other Great Lakes, elevated levels of PCBs and other toxic chemicals have been found in lake trout, nesting herring gulls and eaglets in the Lakeshore. The quality of Lake Superior's waters are affected by both point and non-point sources of pollution. The primary source of toxic contamination is through atmospheric deposition. Additional threats to the quality of Lake Superior in the Apostle Islands Region include proposed pulp mill developments, underwater logging and oil extraction from the area's sandstone. Sandscapes in the lakeshore region have been subjected to various levels of anthropogenic disturbances, both historic and current. Historic impacts from the logging era on some were especially severe which damaged ecological integrity. As far as water quality, Lake Superior is the cleanest of all the Great Lakes. Some areas obtain pollution in the form of nutrients and other contaminants from discharged boat gray water and bilge water, camper dishwashing, and the leaching of human wastes from onshore outhouses. Potential sources of pollutants to nearshore waters on the mainland unit agricultural runoff from local orchards and local sewage treatment facilities. Nearshore waters of Outer Island are subject to nutrient inputs resulting from beaver impoundments. Long Island's nearshore waters may be impacted from pollutants discharged into Chequamegon Bay.